DECLARATION

To all His Loving Subjects,

Upon occasion of his late MESSAGES *to both Houses of* PARLIAMENT,

And their Refusall to treat with Him for the Peace of the KINGDOME.

Charles R.

OUr expresse pleasure is, That this our Declaration be published in all Churches and Chappels within the Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, by the Parsons, Vicars, or Curates of the same.

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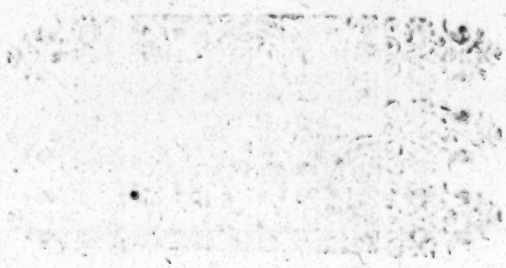

His Majesties
DECLARATION
To all his loving Subjects, upon occasion of his late Messages to both Houses of Parliament, and their refusall, to treate with him for the peace of the Kingdome.

IF it had not evidently appeared to all men who have carefully examined and considered Our Actions, Messages, and Declarations, how far We are and have been from begetting or promoting the present Distractions, and that the Arms wee have now taken are for the necessary safety and defence of Our life, being not taken up by Us till our Town and Fort of *Hull* were kept from Us by force of Armes, Our Navy imployed against Us to keep all forraigne supply of Arms and Mony, when Our owne here was seized and detained from Us, and an Army raised in pay, and marching against Us, yet the late reception of Our Message of the 25. of August, sent by Persons of Honour and Trust, will sure satisfie the World, that we have omitted nothing on Our part that a gracious and Christian Prince could or can do to prevent the effusion of Christian Blood, but that the Malignant party, which have with great subtilty and industry begot this misunderstanding between Us and Our good Subjects, resolve to satisfie and secure their malice and ambition with the ruine of the Kingdome, and in the blood of Us and all Our good Subjects.

When they had forced Us, after the neglect of Our Message from Beverley, by raising a great Army, and incensing Our Subjects against Us, to erect our royall Standard; that Our Subjects might be informed of Our danger, and repaire to Our Succour, though Wee had no great reason to believe any Message of Ours would receive a very good entertainment, if those men might prevaile who had brought all these miseries upon the Kingdome to satisfie their own private end: yet observing the miserable accidents which already befell Our good Subjects by the Souldiers under their command, and well knowing that greater would ensue, if timely prevention were not applyed; and finding that the malice and cunning of these men had infused into Our People a Rumour, that Wee had rejected all

Propoſitions and offers of Treaty, and deſired to engage Our Subjects in a Civill War, which Our Soule abhors, wee prevaile with Our ſelfe (for a full expreſſion of Our deſire to prevent the effuſion of Blood) to ſend a gracious meſſage to both Our Houſes of Parliament on the 25. of Auguſt, in theſe words.

His Majeſties gratious Meſſage to both Houſes of Parl. ſent from *Mottingham* 25. *Aug.* 1642 By the Earls of *Southhampton* and *Dorſet*, Sir *Iohn Culpeper* Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sir *William Uuedall.*

WE have with unſpeakable grief of heart long beheld the diſtractions of this Our Kingdom, Our very ſoul is full of anguiſh untill We may find ſome remedy to prevent the Miſeries which are alredy to overwhelme this whole nation by a civil War: And though all Our endeavours tending to the Compoſing of thoſe unhappy differences betwixt Us and Our two houſes of Parliament (though purſued by Us with all Zeal and Syncerity) have been hitherto without that Succeſſe We hoped for; yet ſuch is our conſtant and earneſt care to preſerve the publike Peace, that We ſhall not be diſcouraged from uſing any Expedient, which by the bleſſing of the God of Mercy may lay a firm foundation of Peace and happineſſe to all Our good Subjects: To this end obſerving that many miſtakes have ariſen by the Meſſages, Petitions and Anſwers betwixt Us and Our two Houſes of Parliament, which happily may be prevented by ſome other way of Treaty, wherein the Matters in difference may be more cleerly underſtood, and more freely tranſacted; We have thought fit to propound to you, That ſome fit perſons may be by you inabled to treat with the like number to be authorized by Us, in ſuch a manner, and with ſuch freedom of debate, as may beſt tend to that happy Concluſion which all good men deſire, *The peace of the Kingdom*: Wherein as We promiſe in the Word of a King all ſafety and encouragement to ſuch as ſhall be ſent to Us, if you ſhall chooſe the place where we are for the Treaty, which We wholy leave to you, preſuming of your like care of the ſafety of thoſe We ſhall imploy if you ſhall name another place; So We aſſure you and all Our good Subjects, that (to the beſt of Our underſtanding) nothing ſhall be therein wanting on Our parts, which may advance the True Proteſtant Religion, Oppoſe Popery and Superſtition, Secure the Law of the Land (upon which is built as well our juſt Prerogative, as the Propriety and Liberty of the Subject) Confirme all juſt Power and Priviledges of Parliament, and render Us and Our People truely happy by a good underſtanding betwixt Us and Our two Houſes of Parliament. Bring with you as firm Reſolutions to doe your duty, and let all Our good people joyne with Us in Our prayers to Almighty God for his bleſſing upon this Work.

If

If this Proposition shall be rejected by you, We have done Our duty so amply, that God will absolve Us from the Guilt of any of that blood which must be spilt, and what opinion soever other men may have of Our Power, We assure you nothing but our Christian and Pious care to prevent the Effusion of blood hath begot this Motion, Our Provision of Men, Arms and Money, being such as may secure Us from farther violence, till it shall please God to open the eyes of Our People.

Our Messengers were not suffered to sit in the Houses, and one of them, the E. of *Southampton* (against whom there was not the least colour of exception or so much as a vote) not suffered to deliver Our Message, but compelled to send it by the Gentleman Usher, and then commanded to depart the Town, before they would prepare any Answer, which they shortly sent Us in these words,

May it please Your Majesty,

The Answer of the Lords and Commons to his Majesties Message the 25. of *Aug.* 1642.

THe Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, having received Your Majesties Message of the 25. *of* August, *doe with much griefe resent the dangerous and distracted state of this Kingdom, which we have by all means endeavoured to prevent, both by our severall advices and Petitions to Your Majesty, which have been not onely without successe, but there hath followed that, which no ill counsell in former times hath produced, or any age hath seen, namely, those severall Proclamations and Declarations against both the Houses of Parliament, whereby their Actions are declared Treasonable, and their Persons Traitors; And thereupon Your Majestie hath set up Your Standard against them; whereby You have put the two Houses of Parliament, and in them this whole Kingdome out of Your protection; so that untill Your Majestie shall recall those Proclamations and Declarations, whereby the E. of Essex and both Houses of Parliament, and their adherents and assistants, and such as have obeyed and executed their commands and directions, according to their duties, are declared Traitors, or otherwise Delinquents; And untill the Standard set up in pursuance of the said Proclamations be taken down, Your Majestie hath put us into such a condition, that whilst we so remain, we cannot by the fundamentall priviledges of Parliament, the publique trust reposed in us, or with the generall good & safety of this Kingdome give Your Majestie any other Answer to this Message.*

Joh. Browne Cler. Parliament.
H. Elsinge Cler. Parl. D. Com.

This

THis ſtrange Anſwer might well have diſcouraged Us from any thought of proceeding further this way, and informed Us ſufficiently what ſpirit ſtill governed amongſt thoſe few, who continued ſtill in both Houſes, otherwiſe after ſo many bitter and invective Meſſages and Declarations ſent to Us, and publiſhed againſt Us, We ſhould not have been reproched with Our Proclamations and Declarations ſet forth by Us, as the effect of ſuch evill Counſel, as was unparallel'd by any former Examples. We beleeve indeed ſuch Proclamations and Declarations have never been before ſet forth; but were former times ever acquainted with ſuch intolerable provocations? were there ever, before theſe Twelve months, Declarations publiſhed in the name of either or both Houſes of Parliament, to make their King odious to the People? Have either or both Houſes ever before aſſumed or pretended to a Power to raiſe Arms or levy War in any Cauſe, or can both Houſes together exerciſe ſuch a Power? Are thoſe Actions which the Law hath defined literally and expreſly to be Treaſonable, or ſuch Perſons to be Traitors, not ſo, becauſe they are done by Members of either Houſe, or their appointment? And muſt not We declare ſuch who march with Arms and Force to deſtroy Us, to be Traitors, becauſe the E. of Eſſex is their Generall? Thoſe whom We have or doe accuſe, We have named together with their crimes, notorious by the known Law of the Land, (a favour not granted to our evill Counſellors) and appeal to that known Law to judge between Us: And now that by this we ſhould have put the whole Kingdome out of Our Protection (in whoſe behalfe We doe all that We have done) is a corrupt Gloſſe upon ſuch a Text, as cannot be perverted but by the cunning practices of ſuch who wiſh not well to King or People, yet that no weak perſons might be miſled by that Imputation upon Us, We ſent a Reply to that Anſwer in theſe words,

His Majeſties Reply to an Anſwer ſent by the two Houſes of Parliament to His Majeſties Meſſage of the 25. of *Auguſt*, concerning a Treaty of Accommodation.

WE will not repeat what meanes We have uſed to prevent the dangerous and diſtracted eſtate of the Kingdom, nor how thoſe means have been interpreted, becauſe being deſirous to avoid effuſion of blood, We are willing to decline all memory of former bitterneſſe that might make Our offer of a Treatie leſſe readily accepted.

We never did Declare, nor ever intended to Declare both our Houſes of Parliament Traitors, or ſet up Our Standard againſt them, and much leſſe to put them and this Kingdom out of Our Protection:

We

Wee utterly Profeſſe againſt it before God and the World. And further to remove all poſſible Scruples which may hinder the Treaty ſo much deſired by Us; We hereby Promiſe, ſo that a day be appointed by you for the revoking of your Declarations againſt all Perſons as Traitours or otherwayes, for aſſiſting of Us, Wee ſhall with all cheerfulneſſe upon the ſame day recall Our Proclamations and Declarations, and take down Our Standard: In which Treaty We ſhal be ready to grant any thing that ſhall be really for the good of Our Subjects; Conjuring you to conſider the bleeding condition of *Ireland*, and the dangerous condition of *England*, in as high a degree as by theſe Our offers We have declared Our Self to do: And aſſuring you that Our chief deſire in this is to beget a good underſtanding & mutuall confidence betwixt Us and Our two Houſes of Parl.

This Meſſage produced an Anſwer little differing from the former, like men who had no other meaſure of the Juſtice of their cauſe, then their Power to oppreſſe Us, forgetting their own duties, they ſharply informe Us of Ours in theſe words,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

The humble *Anſwer* and *Petition* of the Lord and Commons Aſſembled in Parliament, unto the Kings laſt *Meſſage*.

IF we the Lords and Commons in Parliament aſſembled, ſhould repeat all the wayes we have taken, the endeavours we have uſed, and the expreſſions we have made unto Your Majeſtie to prevent thoſe diſtractions and dangers Your Majeſtie ſpeaks of, likely to fall upon this Kingdome, we ſhould too much inlarge this Reply. Therefore as we humbly, ſo ſhall we onely let Your Majeſtie know that we cannot recede from our former Anſwer for the reaſons therein expreſſed. For that Your Majeſtie hath not taken down Your Standard, recalled Your Proclamations and Declarations, whereby You have declared the Actions of both Houſes of Parliament to be Treaſonable, and their Perſons Traitors. And You have publiſhed the ſame ſince Your Meſſage of the 25. of Aug. *by Your late Inſtructions ſent to Your Commiſſioners of Array, which Standard being taken downe, and the Declarations, Proclamations and Inſtructions recalled, If Your Majeſty ſhall then upon this our Humble Petition, leaving Your Forces, returne unto Your Parliament, and receive their faithfull advice, Your Majeſtie will find ſuch expreſſions of our fidelities and duties, as ſhall aſſure You that Your Safety, Honour and Greatneſſe can onely be found in the affections of Your people, and the ſincere counſels of Your Parliament, whoſe conſtant, and undiſcouraged endeavours and conſultations have paſſed through difficulties unheard of, onely to ſecure Your Kingdoms from the violent Miſchiefs &*

dangers

dangers now ready to fall upon them, and every part of them, who deſerve better of Your Majeſtie, and can never allow themſelves (repreſenting likewiſe Your whole Kingdome) to be ballanced with thoſe perſons whoſe deſperate diſpoſitions and counſels prevaile, ſtill ſo to interrupt all our indeavours for the reliefe of bleeding Ireland, as we may fear our labours, and vaſt expences will be fruitleſſe to that diſtreſſed Kingdom. As Your preſence is thus humbly deſired by us; So is it in our hopes Your Majeſtie will in Your reaſon beleeve, there is no other way then this, to make Your Self happy, and Your Kingdom ſafe.

Joh. Brown Cler. Parl.

WIthout any bitterneſſe or reprehenſion of their neglect of Us, and the publique Peace, to expreſſe Our deep ſenſe of the Calamities at hand, We yet once more (hoping to awake them to a Chriſtian tenderneſſe towards the whole Kingdome) ſent to them in theſe words,

WHo have taken moſt wayes, uſed moſt endeavours, & made moſt reall expreſſions to prevent the preſent diſtractions and dangers, let all the World judge, as well by former Paſſages as by Our two laſt Meſſages, which have been ſo fruitleſſe, that (though We have deſcended to deſire and preſſe it) not ſo much as a Treaty can be obtained, unleſſe We would denude Our ſelfe of all force to defend Us from a viſible ſtrength marching againſt Us, and admit thoſe Perſons as Traitors to Us, who according to their duty, their Oaths of Allegiance, and the Law, have appeared in defence of Us their King and Liedge Lord (whom We are bound in Conſcience and honour to preſerve) though We diſclaimed all Our Proclamations & Declarations, & the erecting of Our Standard as againſt our Parliament. All We have now left in Our Power is to expreſſe the deep ſenſe We have of the publike miſery of this Kingdom, in which is involved that of Our diſtreſſed Proteſtants of *Ireland*, and to apply Our ſelf to Our neceſſary defence, wherein We wholy rely upon the Providence of God, the Iuſtice of Our Cauſe, and the affection of Our good People, ſo farre We are from putting them out of Our protection. When you ſhall deſire a Treaty of Us, We ſhall piouſly remember whoſe blood is to be ſpilt in this quarrell, and cheerfully embrace it: And as no other Reaſon induced Us to leave Our City of *London*, but that with honour and ſafety We could not ſtay there, nor raiſe any force but for the neceſſary defence of Our Perſon and the Law, againſt Leavies in oppoſition to both; ſo we ſhall ſuddenly

and

and most willingly returne to the one, and disband the other, as soon as those causes shal be removed. The God of heaven direct you, and in mercy divert those judgements which hang over this Nation, & so deale with Us and Our Posterity as We desire the Preservation & Advancement of the true Protestant Religion, the Laws and Liberty of the Subject, the just Rights of Parliament, and the Peace of the Kingdome.

BUt as if all these gracious Messages had been the effects onely of Our weakness, and instances of Our want of Power to resist that torment, they deale at last more plainly with Us, and after many sharp, causeless, and unjust reproaches, they tell Us in plaine English, that without putting Our Self into their hands, and deserting all Our own Force, and the protection of all those who have faithfully appeared for Vs according to their duty, there would be no means of a Treaty, although Our extraordinary desire of Peace had prevailed with Vs, to offer to recall Our most just Declarations, and to take downe Our Standard, set up for Our necessary defence, so their unjustifiable Declarations might be likewise recalled, their Answer follows in these words,

The humble *Answer* of the *Lords* and *Commons* assembled in Parliament unto His *Majesties* last *Message*.

VVE the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, doe present this our humble Answer to Your Majesties Message of the 11. *of this instant month of* September, *when we consider the Oppressions, Rapines, Firing of houses, Murthers, (even at this time, whilst Your Majesty propounds a Treaty) committed upon Your good Subjects by Your Souldiers, in the presence, and by the Authority of their Commanders, being of the number of those whom Your Majesty holds Your Selfe bound in Honour and Conscience to Protect as Persons doing their Duties. We cannot think Your Majesty hath done all that in You lies to prevent, or remove the present destractions; nor so long as Your Majesty will admit no Peace, without securing the Authors and Instruments of these mischiefs from the Iustice of the Parl. which yet shall be ever dispenced with all requisite moderation & distinction of offences, Although some of those Persons be such in whose Preservation Your Kingdome cannot be safe, nor the unquestionable Rights and Priviledges of Parl. be maintained, without which the power and dignity thereof will fall into contempt. We beseech Your Majesty therefore to consider Your expressions, That God should deale with You and Your Posterity, as Your Majesty desires the p[illegible]servation of the just Rights of Parliament, which being undeniable in the Trying of such as we have declared to be Delin-*

quents, we shall beleeve Your Majesty both towards Your Self and Parliament will not in this Priviledge, we are most sensible of, deny us that which belongs unto the meanest Court of Iustice in this Kingdome. Neither hath Your Majestie cause to complain that You are denyed a Treatie, when we offer all that a Treatie can produce, or Your Majestie expect, Security, Honour, Service, Obedience, Support, and all other effects of an Humble, Loyall, and faithfull subjection, and seek nothing but that our Religion, Liberty, peace of the Kingdome, safety of the Parliament may be secured from the open violence, and cunning practices of a wicked party, who have long plotted our ruine and destruction; And if there were any cause of Treason, we know no competent persons to Treat betwixt the King and Parliament, And if both Cause and Persons were such as could invite Treatie, the Season is altogether unfit, whilst Your Majesties Standard is up, and Your Proclamations and Declarations unrecalled, whereby Your Parliament is Charged with Treason.

If Your Majestie shall persist to make Your Self a shield and defence to those Instruments, and shall continue to reject our faithfull and necessary advice for securing and maintaining Religion and Liberty, with the peace of the Kingdome and safety of the Parliament; we doubt not but to indifferent judgements it will easily appeare who is most tender of that Innocent Blond which is like to be spilt in this Cause, Your Majestie, who by such persisting, doth endanger Your Self and Your Kingdoms, or We, whoare willing to hazard our selves, to preserve both.

We humbly beseech Your Majesty to consider how impossible it is, that any Protestation, though published in Your Majesties Name, of the tenderneſse of the miseries of Your Protestant Subjects of Ireland, of Your Resolution to maintain the Protestant Religion, and Laws of this Kingdom, can give satisfaction to reasonable and indifferent men, when at the same time divers of the Irish Traitors and Rebels, the known favourers of them, and Agents for them, are admitted to Your Majesties presence with grace and favour, and some of them imployed in Your service; when the Cloathes, Munition, Horses, and other Necessaries bought by Your Parliament, & sent for the supply of the Army against the Rebels there, are violently taken away, some by Your Majesties command, others by Your ministers, and applyed to the maintenance of an unnaturall War against Your People here.

All this notwithstanding as we never gave Your Majesty any just cause of withdrawing Your Self from Your great Councell, so it hath ever been, and shall ever be far from us to give any impediment to Your return, or to neglect any proper means of curing the distempers of the King-

Kingdome, and closing the dangerous Breaches betwixt Your Majesty and Your Parliament, according to the great Trust which lies upon us, and if Your Majesty shall now be pleased to come back to Your Parliament, without Your Forces, we shall be ready to secure Your Royall Person, Your Crown and Dignity, with our Lives and Fortunes: Your presence in this Your great Councell, being the onely meanes of any Treaty betwixt Your Majesty and them with hope of Successe.

And in none of our desires to Your Majesty shall we be swayed by any particular mans advantage, but shall give a clear Testimony to Your Majestie, and the whole world, that in all things done by us, we faithfully intend the good of Your Majesty, and of Your Kingdoms, and that we will not be diverted from this end by any private, or selfe-respects whatsoever.

Joh. Brown Cler. Parl.

THey will not beleeve We have done all that in Us lyes to prevent and remove the present Distractions, because of the oppressions, Rapines, and the like committed upon Our good Subjects by Our Souldiers. Let them remember who have compelled Vs, and against Our Soules desire forced Vs to raise those Souldiers, and then if the oppressions and Rapines were indeed such as are falsely pretended, Our poore Subjects who suffer under them, will looke on them, and onely on them, as the Authors of all the miseries they doe or can undergo. We confesse with grief of heart some discords have and many more may befall Our good People by Our Souldiers, but We appeal to all those countyes through which We have passed, what care We have taken to prevent, and what Justice We dayly inflict upon such Offenders: neither hath the least complaint been ever made to Vs of violences and outrages, which We have not to Our utmost Power repayred or punished, however those false and treasonable Pamphlets are suffered, which accuse Vs of giving warrant fot plundring of Houses. Our Mercy and Lenity is so well known to the contrary, that it is usually made an excuse by those who against their Consciences assist this Rebellion against Vs, that they chuse rather to offend Vs upon confidence of Pardon, then provoke those Malignant Persons who without charity or Compassion destroy all who concur not with them in faction and opinion. How far We are from Rapine and Oppression may appear by Our Lenity to the Persons and Estates of those who have not only exercised the Militia (the seed from whence this Rebellion against Vs hath

 grown)

growne) but contributed Money and Plate to the maintenance of that Armie which now endeavours to destrov Vs, As of *Nottingham*, *Leicester*, aud many other places through which we have passed, many of whom then were and now are in that Army: to let passe Our passing by Chartly (the house of the E. of *Essex*) without other pressures then as if he were the Generall of Our owne Army, and Our expresse Orders to restraine the Liberty, our Souldiers would otherwise have used upon that place, and his Estate about it. How contrary the proceedings are of these great Assertors of the publique Liberties, appears fully by the sad instances they every day give in the pundring by Publick warrant, the Houses of all such whose Duty, Conscience, and Loyalty hath engaged them in our Quarrell, which every good man ought to make his owne. By their declaring all Persons to be out of the Protection of Parliament (and so exposing them to the fury of their Souldiers) who will not assist this Rebellion against Vs, their anointed King, by the dayly outrages committed in Yorkshire, when contrary to the desire and agreement of that County (signed under the hands of both partyes) they will not suffer the Peace to be kept, but that the distractions and Confusion may be universall over the whole Kingdom, direct their Governour of Hull to make Warr upon our good Subjects in that County, and so continue the robbing and plundring the Houses of all such who concur not with them in this Rebellion. Lastly, by the barbarous, sacrilegious Inhumanity exercised by their Souldiers in Churches, as in Canterbury, Worcester, Oxford, and other Places, where they committed such unheard of outrages, as Iewes, and Atheists, never practised before. God in his good time will make them examples of his vengeance.

We never did, nor ever shall desire to secure the Authors and Instruments of any mischiefs to the Kingdom from the Iustice of Parliament, We desire all such Persons may bee speedily brought to condigne punishment by that Rule wch is or ought to be, the Rule of all punishment, the known Law of the Land, If there have seemed to be any interruption in proceedings of this nature, it must be remembred, how long Persons have been kept under generall Accusations, without tryall, though earnestly desired, that the Members who were properly to judge such Accusations have by violence been driven thence, or could not with honour and safety be present at such debates, that notorious Delinquents by the knowne Lawes were protected against Us from the Iustice of the Kingdom, and such called

led Delinquents, who committing no Offence againſt any knowne Law were ſo voted onely for doing their Duties to Us, and then there will be no cauſe of complaint found againſt Us.

And for the Priviledges of Parliament We have ſaid ſo much and upon ſuch reaſons, (which have never been anſwered but by bare poſitive Aſſertions) in Our ſeverall Declarations, that We may well, and doe ſtill uſe the ſame expreſſion, That We deſire God may ſo deale with Us and Our Poſterity, as We deſire the preſervation of the juſt Rights of Parliament; the violation whereof in truth by theſe deſperate Perſons is ſo cleerly known to all men who underſtand the Priviledges of Parliament, that their rage and malice hath not been greater to Our Perſon and Governement then to the Liberty, Priviledge, and very being of Parliaments, witneſſe their putting in, putting out, and ſuſpending what Perſons they pleaſe, as they like or diſlike their opinions, their bringing down the Tumults to aſſault the Members, and awe the Parliament, their poſting and proſecuting ſuch Members of either Houſe as concurred not with them in their Deſignes, and ſo driving them from thence for the ſafety of their lives, their denying Us, againſt the known, eſtabliſhed Law, and the Conſtitution of the Kingdome, to have a negative voice, without which no Parliament can conſiſt, their making cloſe Committees, from whence the Members of the Houſes are exempted, againſt the Liberty of Parliament, and laſtly reſolving both Houſes into a cloſe Committee, of ſeventeen perſons who undertake and direct all the preſent Outrages and the managery of this Rebellion againſt Us, in the abſence of foure parts of five of both Houſes, and without the privity of thoſe who ſtay there, which is not onely contrary but deſtructive to Parliaments themſelves. By theſe groſſe, unheard-of Incaſions and breaches of the Priviledges of Parliament, (and without them they could not have done the other) They made way for their Attempts upon the Law of the Land, and the Introduction of that unlimited, Arbitrary Power which they have ſince exerciſed to the intolerable damage and confuſion of the whole Kingdome. And We aſſure Our good Subjects, the vindication of theſe juſt Liberties and Priviledges of Parliament, thus violated by theſe men, is not leſſe the Argument of Our preſent quarrell and undertaking, then Our owne Honour, Intereſt, and Safety, thoſe being no way ſo ſecurely to be preſerved, as by preſerving Parliaments and their juſt Priviledges. Neither is there any Proteſtation to Our knowledge publiſhed in Our name of Our tenderneſſe of the miſe-

ries of *Ireland*, and Our Resolution to maintain the Protestant Religion, and Laws of this Kingdom, that is not the Protestation of Our Soule, and manifested in all Our Actions, and We hope that false Scandall, That divers of the Irish Traitors and Rebels, the known favourers of them, and Agents for them are admitted to Our presence with favour, and imployed in Our service, will gaine no credit with good men, who remember well the notorious imputation so confidently and groundlesly heretofore cast on Us by M. *Pym*, of which as there could never be the least proof, so Wee could never receive any satisfaction for that high injury, which might have been a warning to them to have published no more such untruths, if they had not found that truth and their Ends cannot meet together.

For the Horses taken for Our service, which were provided for the service of Ireland, 'tis true We were compelled for the bringing Our own wagons from Chester for the carriage of Our Munition to make use of them, being few in number and of small value, after they were certified to be of no use for the service, for which they were provided. And for the clothes upon enquiry Wee finde that some few were taken by Our Souldiers (but without order from Vs) going to Coventry, and as was probably beleeved for the relieſe of that place, then in actual rebellion against Vs, but how far We have beene, and are from diverting any of those provisions made for the relieſe of that poore Kingdome (the thought of whose miserable condition makes our heart bleede) may appeare by our expresse command, given for the speedy transportation of 3000. suites of clothes which we found provided at Chester, but neglected to be sent, and which no necessity of our own Army here could prevaile with Vs to seise. And how bold soever the reproaches of that kinde have beene upon us, VVe are confident malice it selfe cannot lay the least probable imputation upon us, for the neglect of our duty towards that Kingdome. VVhat one thing in our power have wee neglected or omitted, which might contribute to the assistance, or ease of our poore Protestant subjects there? VVe first recommended the case of that businesse to both our Houses of Parliament. VVee condescended to all propositions made on the behalf offered to raise 10000. Voluntiers (which if then accepted had shortned that work) offered to venture our own person in the service, what interpretation that offer of ours found, is known to all the world, VVe parted with our Interest in the Land of the Rebels, to encourage such who were willing to adventure in that businesse, and when money

is raiſed by our conſent for that ſole purpoſe, they have at once ſeized 100000. pound particularly appointed by Act of Parliament for the reliefe of Ireland (our Army being ready to periſh for want of it) and employed it to maintain this unnaturall civill war at home. They have levyed men and entertained Commanders for that ſervice, and then compelled them to joyne in this Rebellion, and to march againſt Us, and though they have complained of Our keeping the Lieutenant of Ireland ſome weekes with Us, (when in truth it was a ſeaſon of extraordinary buſineſſe) after We had in vaine for many months preſſed his diſpatch, yet themſelves now detain him, when his going is ſo neceſſary for the preſervation of that Kingdom. And no doubt theſe men (and theſe alone) by begetting this miſerable diſtraction of *England*, are guilty before God and Man of all the inſupportable calamities that Our Kingdom of *Ireland* endures. Let all the world judge where the deſire of Peace is, and upon whoſe account the blood and confuſion which hath been ſhed and muſt follow, ſhall bee caſt, And whether the ſeverall Proclamations and Declarations publiſhed by Us, have not bin extorted from Us, by ſuch unheard of Inſolencies and Injuries, which no former times ever produced; neither can any ſober man wonder, when We are publickly reproached, traduced, and reviled to Our People (a practice never known till this Parliament) that We endeavour by a true relation and Declaration of Our Actions and Intentions, and of their Conſpiracyes, who have vowed Our deſtruction, to informe Our good Subjects of the cunning and malice they are to encounter with; and when a Combination is entred into to deſtroy Us, and to alter the Religion and Law of the Kingdome, and to that purpoſe an Army raiſed and marching againſt Us, that We proclaime the Generall of that Army and ſuch who ſhall aſſiſt him in leavying a War againſt Us, to be Traitors, and have ſet up Our Royall Standard, and required all Our good Subjects to come to Our defence. And yet both in that Proclamation and in all Our Declarations We have never accuſed Our Parliament, but ſuch factious, ſeditious members of both Houſes whom We have named, and whom We are ready to prove according to the Rules of the known Law to bee guilty of High Treaſon. We well know, and all the Kingdome knowes that of neere 500. Members which the Houſe of Commons contains, there remains not now there 100. neither hath above ſuch a number conſented almoſt to any thing of which We have ever complained, the reſt have either been driven away by Tumults and Threats of the

Perſons,

Persons whom We have accused, or out of Conscience withdrawne themselves from their desperate consultations, and of about 100. Peeres of the Realme there are not above 15. or 16. who concur in these miserable Resolutions, which disturbe the publique peace, many of which being of desperate fortunes, have no other support, then the Commands now given them to make War upon Us, and now these men must sit upon the lives and fortunes of all the Nobility, Gentry, and Commons of England, and because We will not put Our selfe into the hands, Government, and dispossall of them, all Our good Subjects are envited and encouraged to Rebel against us, yet We haue beene, and are still far from accusing all that small number of both Houses who are yet left together, VVe believe many of them are misled by the cunning and malice, and frighted by the power of those men whom we have accused, against every one of whom We have evidence of matter of fact, that the knowne Law of the Land determines to be High Treason.

And now that all Our good Subjects may see how desirous these men and their adherents are to prevent the effusion of blood, and the lasting miseries of a Civill War, they will make themselves so considerable, that except We will recall Our Proclamations and Declarations whereby particular men named for particular Actions (which the Law hath defined to be Treason) are so accused, and others warned from involving themselves in their guilt, and except We will take downe Our Standard, that Our good Subjects may not repaire to Us for Our defence, when so many Armies are raised against Us in severall parts of the Kingdom, and ready to destroy Us, and such of Our good Subjects, who dare continue loyall to Us, and except We will return to London, from whence with violence We have been driven, We must not be treated with, or receive any Answer to so gratious a Message.

It can no longer be doubted by any man, who hath not wilfully forsaken his understanding, that it is no more a quarrell undertaken by the Parliament, but contrived and fomented by the Persons We have named, and now continued solely in their defence, to whose Ambition, Faction, and malice, the true reformed Protestant Religion, the just Right, Honour, Safety, and life of Us and Our Posterity, the Law of the Land, which hath so long preserved this Nation happy, the Liberty of the Subject established by that Law, and the glorious frame and constitution of this Kingdom must be sacrificed. But as We have hitherto left no Action unperformed, which in Honour, Iustice and Conscience We were obliged to doe, or in Christian Policy and Prudence We could conceave might probably prevent these Calamities, so We thanke God he hath given Us a full Courage and Resolution to run the utmost hazard of Our life for the suppression of this horrible Rebellion, in the which no disproportion of Power, Armes, or Money shall discorage Us; And We hope that all Our good Subjects, besides, by the Common duty of Allegiance, will be stirred up for their owne sakes, for the preservation of the blessed Protestant Religion, and for the upholding this whole admirable frame of Government, which being dissolved, all their private and particular Rights & Interest must be immediately confounded, to bring in their utmost power & assistance unto Us in this desperate exigent. And We doe declare that whosoever shall loose his life in this Service for Our defence, the Wardship of his Heyre shall be granted by Us without Rent or Fyne to his owne use, and VVe shall hold Our Selfe obliged to take all possible care for the support, relief, and protection of all their wives, and Children, who shall have the hard fortune to dye in this Service.

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